

February

Preston Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1958

Preston Rural District Council



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Public Health Department,
Guildhall Street,
Preston.

**REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1958**

To the Chairman and Members of the Preston District Rural Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Guyer and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration the Annual Report on the health, sanitary conditions and circumstances of the Preston Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1958, together with the vital statistics related to that period.

Vital statistics related to England and Wales, no longer issued by the Registrar-General, have been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health, enabling a comparison with national figures to be made.

The increase in the estimated population of the rural district from 40,140 in 1957 to 40,290 in 1958 is far less than previous annual increases, and it is difficult to substantiate in the light of the occupation of 22 council houses by overspill population from the Preston C.B., and the knowledge that about one-third of the 217 privately-built houses in 1958 would be occupied by people previously residing outside the district. Even though the natural increase in the population was minus 41, I would go so far as to suggest that a figure double the estimated increase of 150 would have been justified. If the deaths which occurred in the Ribchester and Whittingham Hospitals are ignored, there was a natural increase in the population of 155.

It was reported last year that more live births were registered in 1957 compared with any year in the last decade. The total figure was 583, and the same number was recorded in 1958. The crude rate was also identical at 14.5 per 1,000 of the estimated population. This rate, when adjusted to take into account the age structure of the population and render it comparable with the crude rate of 16.4 for the whole country, is greater than the latter by 1.0 per 1,000. Stillbirths numbered eight, or five less than in 1957, and the rate per 1,000 total births fell from 22 in the previous year to 13.5, and was 8.1 per 1,000 below the rate for England and Wales. Illegitimate live births at 14 were six less than the total for 1957, and almost identical with the average annual number of the last decade.

Mortality from all causes was less by 14 compared with the previous year, and the crude death-rate fell from 15.9 per 1,000 of the estimated population to 15.4 per 1,000, despite the 196 deaths which occurred in the Ribchester and Whittingham Hospitals. Heart disease in all its forms continued as the major cause of death, and the percentage figure of total deaths rose from 33.0 to 40.8. Cancer reverted to the third principal cause after leaping to second place last year, with vascular lesions of the nervous system resuming second position. Deaths from cancer showed a considerable reduction from 108 to 65, and all forms with the one exception of cancer of the uterus were affected. The slight reduction in lung cancer can be looked upon, at least, as a temporary reversal of the ominous trend of annual increase. The figure of infant deaths at 21 was almost double the mortality of the

previous year, and the mortality rate per 1,000 live births rose from 19 in 1957 to 36 in the period under review. It should be remembered, however, that when a preventive service in a particular field of mortality has reduced the mortality to figures of apparent numerical insignificance, a small increase in the number of deaths in a particular year can cause a comparison with previous years to be extremely unfavourable. This would, of course, occur if twins or triplets were associated with the mortality of a particular year such as in 1953, when 20 deaths were recorded, similar to the number for 1958. Unfortunately, from a statistical point of view, this is not the case for the period under report, and no logical explanation can be offered. The mortality increase therefore can only be described as "freak." 76 per cent. of all infant deaths occurred under the age of four weeks. No one died from maternal causes. There was an increased mortality amongst persons suffering from tuberculosis of the respiratory system, and the death-rate at 0.27 per 1,000 of the estimated population exceeded by 0.10 an identical death-rate for the preceding four years. Six of the respiratory deaths out of a total of 11 were related to inmates of the Whittingham Hospital. One death occurred under the heading of non-respiratory tuberculosis. Since institution deaths have had to be accepted as belonging to the rural district, all mortality rates with the obvious exception of those rates related to infant and maternal mortality have exceeded national figures.

Reviewing the prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during 1958, scarlet fever and dysentery were the only exceptions to a general low incidence. It is pleasing to report that not one case of whooping cough was recorded, and surely this is dramatic evidence of the success of our efforts in the field of artificial immunisation. The increased incidence of scarlet fever was the usual biennial fluctuation, and with regard to the high incidence of dysentery, all the cases, with one exception, were concerned with inmates of the Whittingham Hospital. The three patients of acute poliomyelitis all recovered without functional limitations.

The County Medical Officer of Health carried out an inspection of the rural district and presented his report to the Public Health and Housing Committees at the year end. The report generally could be classified as satisfactory, but certain recommendations were made. For instance, the Council was urged to give consideration as soon as possible to the necessity for the construction of phases 2 and 3 of the Longton and district sewerage scheme, to press on with the proposed sewerage scheme for the parishes of Barton, Broughton and Goosnargh, to consider the best practicable means of dealing with sewage from the village of Woodplumpton, and to investigate required improvements to existing works at Farington, Penwortham and Ribchester. The report also recommended more frequent sampling of water as delivered to the consumer by the four principal suppliers, regular routine sampling of ice cream, the provision of sanitary and washing facilities for the staff at the Penwortham salvage depot and sewage works, and a hot water supply at the main depot at Leyland Road, Penwortham. I endorse without qualification the recommendation to proceed as soon as possible with phases 2 and 3 of the Longton and district sewerage scheme for the reason that polluted ditches and watercourses in this area have developed into a serious public health problem. Cleansing of these open sewers is both futile and uneconomical in the long term, and I have no doubt that the Council will take this progressive step.

Towards the end of the year a new public health laboratory was opened in Preston. The laboratory service is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health, and caters for every aspect of the public health work of a local authority related to the bacteriological and pathological examination of samples and specimens.

There is no diminution in the varied duties which the staff of the Department is called upon to perform. New sewerage schemes, clean air, slum clearance, food hygiene, pest control, were the functions which dominated the scene during 1958, but all aspects of environmental public health were covered. There is one aspect of food hygiene which calls for special comment, and I refer to the slaughter and dressing of poultry. This trade has increased in the rural district to such an extent during recent years that there are now 36 premises where poultry is slaughtered and dressed or simply where one of these functions is performed. Generally, the buildings are not ideal for the purpose, and the diversity of location makes adequate control extremely difficult. I have no doubt that the solution to the problem is more centralised slaughtering and dressing, but without legislation I cannot see this objective being achieved. Notwithstanding the present difficulties, your public health inspectors have, by seeking the co-operation of the traders concerned, achieved certain improvements, and their efforts will continue in this direction. Clean air is now a foremost topic of comment, and the problem of atmospheric pollution no doubt requires great emphasis to be placed on industrial and domestic smoke and fumes, but, amongst other considerations, the problem of oily fumes discharged into the atmosphere, especially in built-up areas, by diesel engine vehicles should not be ignored. The black, oily smoke often seen pouring out of diesel vehicles at low level is almost entirely preventable, and the law—The Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations, 1951, made under the 1930 Road Traffic Act—requires every motor vehicle to be maintained in such condition as to prevent the emission of smoke or visible vapour, the emission of which could be avoided by taking any reasonable steps or by the exercise of reasonable care. Enforcement is apparently the concern of the police, and there may be a sound legal reason why this should be so. Nevertheless, by virtue of its association with other problems of clean air, it would appear desirable that enforcement should be a duty of the public health department.

In conclusion, I gratefully acknowledge the help received from the staff of the department, and the valuable collaboration received from Mr. Young and Mr. Collier. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their encouragement and support, which have been greatly appreciated.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS for the year 1958

With the kind permission of Dr. V. Barocas, Director of the Jeremiah Horrocks Observatory, Moor Park, Preston, I submit extracts from his report on local meteorological conditions which prevailed during 1958.

The year 1958 has been a wet one. In Preston it will be remembered for its cold and wet winter and the foggy autumn.

The total rainfall for the year was 43.24 inches. This amount, although greater than the average for Preston, was not a record, but in fact it was a total a little greater than the one for 1957. The unusual feature of the rainfall in Preston has been its distribution with reference to the seasons. On average the wettest season is summer, and the driest is spring. Expressed in percentage of the total for the year, the rainfall for the summer is 29.8%, autumn 29.6%, winter 21.5%, and spring 19.1%. This year, however, the percentual distribution was different. Summer was normal with 29.8%. Autumn was the driest season with 20.2%, while winter with 26.5% and spring with 23.5% were wetter than usual. Approximately each season in 1958 contributed one quarter of the total rain for the whole year. The result of this was a continuous wet year.

Of all the months, February was the wettest of the year, and indeed it was the wettest February recorded in Preston since records started in 1876. May, too, was a very wet month, and it was the wettest May since 1924. The wettest day of the year was September 19th, when 1.04in. was recorded. The driest month of the year, as usual, was April, with a total rainfall this year of 0.79in., lower than average. The wet year is also reflected in the number of rain-days, 224 compared with the average of 198, and 195 for 1957, and in the condition of the ground. On 73 days the ground was flooded, as compared with an average of 57 days; the flooding, however, was never very serious, and during the year no reports were received of flooding in any part of the town. In spite of all this, no wet-spell occurred and only one rain-spell (defined as 15 consecutive days with at least 0.01in. of rain for each day) was recorded from August 1st to August 15th.

No partial or absolute drought were recorded this year, but a dry spell from March 30th to April 15th was recorded.

The relative humidity for the year was a little higher than average, but, on the other hand, on six days in 1958 dry air was recorded (humidity less than 60%).

The average temperature for the year was only 0.2°F. lower than average. January was the coldest month with an average temperature of 37.8°F. It was during January that the coldest day of the year was recorded; this was January 22nd, when the minimum was only 8.1°F., a lowest minimum in Preston for several years. January 22nd and 23rd were two very cold days, with the maximum temperature below freezing at 29° and 31°F. respectively, and with minimum temperatures of 8° and 11°F.

With the exception of February, August, September and October, all the other months were colder than average. In particular, March was 2.6°F. lower than average. The warmest month of the year was August, with an average temperature of 60.3°F., but the hottest day of the year occurred in July. The highest maximum of the year was 75.7°F. on July 19th.

With most of the winter and spring months colder than average, it is not surprising to find that in 1958 we had more days of ground and air frost than in recent years. Ground frost was recorded on 93 days and air frost on 64 days, as compared with 83 and 36 respectively for 1957. In April there were seven days of air frost, while ground frost was observed on five nights as late as May. The lowest ground temperature, 0°F., was recorded on January 22nd.

Winds were mainly easterly during the year. One of the features of 1958 has been the great number of calm days, particularly towards the end of the year. On 91 days there was no wind, more than twice the average for the year, and of these, 18 days were recorded in November and 11 days in December. No strong winds were recorded during the year, and the three gales recorded were not very serious and did not cause any damage in the town.

The average barometric pressure for the year was normal, although it was particularly high in November.

Snow fell on 30 days, and on nine days it was recorded as lying on the ground at 0900 G.M.T. in January and February. In February, towards the end of the month, the falls were rather heavy and were accompanied by heavy drifting up to 2ft. in the grounds of the Observatory. Snow also fell in March and April.

Hail was recorded on 18 days in 1958, and thunder was heard on 14 occasions.

Visibility during the year was good in spring and summer. Fog at 0900 G.M.T. was recorded on 48 days, more than half of these at the end of the year, in November (16 days) and in December (12 days), and of these four were classified as thick fog and two as dense fog (visibility less than 22 yards). Only on two days, one in January and one in February, was there excellent visibility at 0900 G.M.T. Abnormal visibility during the day was recorded on 13 occasions.

Glaze was observed once in December, and the Moor Park pond was frozen on 24 days, as compared with nine days in 1957.

The optical phenomena observed during 1958 consisted of 45 solar and four lunar halos; 13 solar and 21 lunar coronae and 12 rainbows, two of which were double rainbows.

Some of the meteorological observations for 1958 are summarised in the tables which follow :

EXTREMES OF TEMPERATURE

Month	Highest Maximum				Lowest Minimum				Lowest Maximum				Highest Minimum			
	Temp. °F.		Date		Temp. °F.		Date		Temp. °F.		Date		Temp. °F.		Date	
January	56	...	27	...	8	...	22	...	29	...	21	...	50	...	28	
February	53	...	14	...	22	...	7	...	33	...	25	...	49	...	15	
March	59	...	30	...	21	...	10	...	37	...	9	...	45	...	9	
April	67	...	30	...	24	...	12	...	43	...	3	...	49	...	29	
May	73	...	1	...	35	...	7	...	47	...	10	...	53	...	19	
June	73	...	29	...	42	...	25	...	56	...	10	...	55	...	30	
July	76	...	19	...	44	...	25	...	61	...	23	...	58	...	3	
August	75	...	10	...	45	...	24	...	60	...	5	...	59	..	10	
September	74	...	2 & 5	...	40	...	26	...	60	...	24	...	62	...	6	
October	62	...	4	...	33	...	18	...	50	...	27	...	54	...	23	
November	56	...	3	...	24	...	11	..	39	...	26	...	50	...	16	
December	53	...	19	...	26	...	10	...	39	...	13	...	46	...	20	
Year	75.7		19 July		8.1		22 Jan.		28.8		21 Jan.		61.9		6 Sept.	

RAINFALL AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Month	Total Rainfall inches		Difference from average inches		No. of Days				Wettest Days				Vapour Pressure in mbs.	Relative Humidity % satur.		
					Rain Days	Wet Days			Fall Inch	Date						
January	...	3.43	...	+0.18	...	22	..	18	...	0.50	...	24	...	6.9	...	89.3
February	...	6.45	...	+4.02	...	25	...	18	...	0.78	...	13	...	7.3	...	86.5
March	...	1.58	...	−0.79	...	14	...	7	...	0.47	...	12	...	6.6	...	82.6
April	...	1.29	...	−0.79	...	10	...	8	...	0.54	...	25	...	8.0	...	75.7
May	...	4.77	...	+2.30	...	19	...	18	...	0.97	...	8	...	10.1	...	78.4
June	...	4.12	...	+1.47	...	18	...	17	...	0.64	...	2 & 24	...	12.8	...	81.5
July	...	3.22	...	−0.23	...	19	...	16	...	0.65	...	1	...	14.1	...	80.1
August	...	3.92	...	−0.30	...	22	...	19	...	0.66	...	3	...	14.9	...	84.4
September	...	5.73	...	+2.16	...	18	...	14	...	1.04	...	19	...	14.5	...	83.0
October	...	3.50	...	−0.38	...	21	...	15	...	0.65	...	12	...	11.4	...	86.3
November	...	2.02	...	−1.57	...	15	...	10	...	0.85	...	12	...	8.7	...	92.3
December	...	3.21	...	−0.45	...	21	...	16	...	0.48	...	8	...	7.5	...	90.8
Year	...	43.24	...	+5.62	...	224	...	176	..	1.04	...	19 Sept.	...	10.2	...	84.2

VISIBILITY AT 09.00 G.M.T.

Number of Days

Month	Dense Fog		Thick Fog		Fog		Mod. Fog		Mist or Haze		Poor Visi-bility		Med. Visi-bility		Good Visi-bility		Very Good Vis.		Excel. Visi-bility	
January	...	1	...	1	...	4	...	3	...	4	...	8	...	5	...	1	...	3	...	1
February	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	2	...	4	...	8	...	7	...	3	...	2	...	1
March	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	2	...	5	...	5	...	11	...	2	...	6	...	0
April	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	2	...	6	...	10	...	4	...	7	...	0
May	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	2	...	10	...	9	...	6	...	4	...	0
June	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	9	...	15	...	2	...	3	...	0
July	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	7	...	9	...	6	...	8	...	0
August	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	3	...	7	...	14	...	4	...	3	...	0
September	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	2	...	13	...	12	...	2	...	1	...	0
October	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	5	...	3	...	12	...	8	...	1	...	2	...	0
November	...	1	...	3	...	4	...	8	...	4	...	6	...	3	...	0	...	1	...	0
December	...	0	...	0	...	2	...	10	...	4	...	8	...	4	...	3	...	0	...	0
Year	...	2	...	4	...	11	...	31	...	35	...	99	...	107	...	34	...	40	...	2

WEATHER

Number of Days

Month	Snow or Sleet		Snow Lying at 0900 G.M.T.		Hail		Thunder heard		Fog at 0900 G.M.T.		Gale Wind-force 8 or above		Ground Frost		Air Frost	
January	...	9	...	5	...	6	...	1	...	9	...	1	...	15	...	14
February	...	6	...	4	...	2	...	0	...	3	...	0	...	11	...	12
March	...	9	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	2	...	0	...	18	...	13
April	...	3	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	13	...	7
May	...	0	...	0	...	2	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	5	...	0
June	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	2	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0
July	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0
August	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	5	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0
September	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	3	...	0	...	2	...	0	...	0
October	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	5	...	0	...	2	...	0
November	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	16	...	0	...	14	...	7
December	...	3	...	0	...	3	...	1	...	12	...	0	...	15	...	11
Year	...	30	...	9	...	18	...	14	...	48	...	3	...	93	...	64

Physical Features of the Area

The Rural District is largely a lowland area, mainly below 250 feet, lying largely to the north of the River Ribble, but with considerable extensions south of the river, south-west and east of Preston. In the extreme north of the district the land rises rapidly to 874 feet at Beacon Fell, and in the east heights of over a thousand feet are attained on the southern slopes of Longridge Fell. North of Preston the drainage is largely eastwards to the River Wyre, while the rest of the district drains directly or indirectly into the Ribble.

The solid geological formations represented in the district are the Carboniferous Limestone, Millstone Grit, Bunter Sandstone and Keuper Marl. These formations are rarely seen at the surface, however, because they are buried beneath a thick cover of "drift" deposits. Apart from the valley alluvium of the rivers and streams and the raised terraces along the Ribble and Darwen, the "drift" is composed of glacial boulder clay, sand and gravel.

The latter occur only as impersistent patches on the boulder clay, such as that to the north-east of Goosnargh, or is exposed in the sides of the many stream valleys. Boulder clay covers most of the district, and in general gives rise to a heavy clay soil. The numerous marl pits which were dug many years ago to obtain material to lighten the soil are a characteristic feature of boulder clay areas. The heavy clay soils provide excellent pastures which support dairy herds, and arable farming is of lesser importance. Poultry farming is widespread, as it is throughout the whole of the Fylde area.

The solid rocks have little effect on the physical features of the area because of the thick drift cover. Over much of the area this thick cover renders it impossible to determine with any degree of accuracy the nature and structure of the underlying rocks unless borings are undertaken. In the extreme north and east of the district, however, the solid formations outcrop at the surface. These outcrops belong to the Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit formations. The former is the oldest formation represented in the district, but here it does not carry the massive limestone beds so characteristic of other areas, e.g., Clitheroe. It is composed of a thick series of shales with thin limestones, the Worston Shales and the Pendleside Limestone series which underlie the greater part of the parishes of Goosnargh, Whittingham and Houghton. Towards the top of the latter there is a rather thicker limestone bed, the Pendleside Limestone, which occurs on the northern flanks of Longridge Fell. The top of the Carboniferous Limestone is formed by the Lower Bowland Shales, which contain a fairly characteristic grit band, the Pendleside Grit. These occur on Beacon Fell and Longridge Fell. The Millstone Grit is represented by a series of grits and shales. The lowest beds are the Upper Bowland Shales, which are succeeded by the massive Pendle Grit. This latter forms the conspicuous features of Beacon Fell and Longridge Fell, and, together with the overlying shales and grits, underlie the parishes of Hothersall, Ribchester and Dutton. Millstone Grit shales and grits are present beneath the "drift" in the southern part of the parish of Samlesbury, and the north-east part of Grimsargh parish. The grits in this area have not been tried as a source of water supply, so the potentiality of water bores is not known. Results from boring in grits vary considerably according to the nature of the grit and its openness of grain and extent of the jointing and fissuring.

West of the Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit occurs the Triassic Bunter Sandstone, a fairly hard red, yellow or buff-coloured sandstone. The details of structure and the position of faults are only assumed, but the following picture has been obtained by the study of available bore records. The Bunter Sandstone is faulted against or overlies the most steeply dipping Carboniferous Limestone shales, and the Millstone Grit to the east and south-east. The sandstone dips gently to the north-west and occurs beneath the "drift" in the parishes of Barton, Woodplumpton, Lea, Hutton, Penwortham, Cuerdale, the south-west part of the parish of Grimsargh and the north-west part of Samlesbury parish. It is affected by strong faults, the exact positions of which are difficult to determine. The Bunter Sandstone is an excellent source of underground water, and there are several private water wells in Preston which draw on this source. It is probable that further supplies could be obtained north of Preston, but care would be needed in the siting of the wells.

Keuper Marl, thinly bedded, fine grained red marls with bands and patches of green-coloured marls and thin bands of fine grained sandstone or "skerries," are present beneath the boulder clay in the parishes of Longton, Little Hoole, Much Hoole and Farington. The beds dip north-westwards and are separated from the Bunter Sandstone to the north by a fault. Borings in Keuper Marl give little or no water, and that which is obtained is too highly mineralised to be use for public supply.

General Statistics

STATISTIC AND GENERAL SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

- (1) Area in acres—49,758.
- (2) Population (Census 1951)—37,655.
- (3) Registrar-General estimate of home population, 1958—40,290.
- (4) Number of inhabited houses (Census 1951)—10,334.
- (5) Number of inhabited houses end of 1958, according to Rate Books—12,244.
- (6) Rateable value, 1st April, 1958—£415,981.
- (7) Sum represented by a penny rate—£1,683 (1st April, 1958, estimated).

The Rural District, which is mainly agricultural, consists chiefly of pleasant, undulating country, dotted here and there with patches of woodland, and watered by innumerable brooks.

Dairy farming, poultry farming, market gardening, cotton manufacture, paper manufacture and engineering comprise the main industries. The employment available is of a healthy character, and there was little evidence of unemployment among the inhabitants of the district in 1958.

There are facilities for religious worship, according to denomination, throughout the district, and several parishes have Village Halls and/or Women's Institutes. In addition, there are clubs, based upon religious, political or recreational groups, and in these places, particularly in the winter months, lectures, concerts, dramatic society meetings, plays, debates and dances are held.

Golf courses are situate at Penwortham and Lea. There are cricket grounds at New Longton, Penwortham and Whittingham. Facilities for tennis, football and bowls are available, and Playing Fields have been provided by the Rural District Council in practically all parishes.

There are 35 schools in the area, providing facilities for both primary and secondary education, and the Lancashire County Council provides branches of the County Library mostly in schools and village halls throughout the district.

POPULATION OF THE RURAL DISTRICT

The Registrar-General's estimate of home population of the Rural District as at 30th June, 1958, was 40,290, an increase of 150 compared with the estimate of 40,140 for the previous year.

Estimates of home population include members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area and merchant seamen, whether at home or overseas, but exclude members of the Armed Forces stationed outside England and Wales, and non-civilians of foreign countries, Dominions, etc., temporarily in the country.

The natural increase in the population of the Rural District, i.e., excess of births over deaths, did not materialise by reason of the fact that from the 1st January, 1954, all deaths occurring in the Whittingham Hospital and Ribchester institution have had to be accepted as belonging to the Rural District. In consequence, deaths exceeded births by 41. The number of persons per acre was 0.80, and the number of acres per person 1.23.

VITAL STATISTICS

PERIOD	DEATHS (all causes)		LIVE BIRTHS		STILL- BIRTHS		LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS TOTAL		INFANT MORTALITY TOTAL				NEO- NATAL		ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS		MATERNAL MORTALITY	
	No. Regis- tered	Rate per 1000 Popula- tion	No. Regis- tered	Rate per 1000 Popula- tion	No. Regis- tered	Rate per 1000 Total Births			No. of Deaths Regis- tered	Rate per 1000 Live Births	Rate per 1000 legitimate Live Births	Rate per 1000 illegit- imate live births	Rate per 1000 live births	per cent of total live births		No. of Deaths Regis- tered	Rate per 1000 Total Births	
Year ... 1958...	624	15.5	583	14.5	8	13.5	591		21	36	37	—	27.4	2.4		—	—	
Year ... 1957...	638	15.9	583	14.5	13	22	596		11	19	18	50	15	3.4		2	3.36	
1956 ...	573	14.6	558	14.2	14	24	572		11	20	18	100	20	1.8		—	—	
1955 ...	596	15.2	560	14.3	16	28	576		12	21	20	62	16	2.9		—	—	
1954 ...	574	14.8	480	12.4	5	10	485		12	25	23	200	15	1.0		—	—	
1953 ...	546	14.2	541	14.1	15	27	556		20	37	38	—	30	2.2		—	—	
Average 5 years: 1953 — 1957	—	14.9	—	13.9	—	22	—		—	24	23	82	19	—		—	—	

* Adjusted (live birth-rate; comparability factor, 1.20) } = 17.4 per 1,000
(death-rate; comparability factor, 0.79) = 12.2 per 1,000

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Live Births. The statistics with regard to both births and deaths have again been supplied by the Registrar-General through the County Public Health Department. The number of births and deaths referred to in this report are those registered during the calendar year, corrected for "inward" and "outward" transfers.

According to the Registrar-General, the total births registered in or belonging to the Rural Area during the year 1958 number 583 (males 282, females 301); the same total as for 1957.

The live birth-rate for the Rural District, calculated on the estimated home population, corresponds to 14.5 per 1,000. Last year the rate was the same. The adjusted birth-rate, using the comparability factor supplied by the Registrar-General, is 17.4. The live birth-rate for England and Wales for the year 1958 was 16.4.

The sex distribution of the children born alive during 1958 is shown below. For comparative purposes, the figures for the previous decade are also given :

Year	Males	Females	Total
1948	289	257	546
1949	281	299	580
1950	275	292	567
1951	260	238	498
1952	239	246	485
1953	270	271	541
1954	257	223	480
1955	282	278	560
1956	280	278	558
1957	302	281	583
1958	282	301	583

EXCESS OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS

The figure for 1958 is in fact minus 41 for the reason stated on the previous leaf. However, the natural increase in the population, omitting the deaths which occurred in the Whittingham Hospital and Ribchester Institution, for the period of the last decade is given below :

Year 1949	179	Year 1954	83
„ 1950	106	„ 1955	128
„ 1951	25	„ 1956	121
„ 1952	84	„ 1957	126
„ 1953	170	„ 1958	155

Illegitimate Live Births. The number of births of illegitimate children belonging to the Rural District and registered during 1958 compared with that of every other year of the last decade is shown overleaf :

Year 1949	19	Year 1954	5
„ 1950	8	„ 1955	16
„ 1951	16	„ 1956	10
„ 1952	13	„ 1957	20
„ 1953	12	„ 1958	14

The number of illegitimate live births at 14 was six below the figure for the previous year and comparable with the average figure of the past ten years. The percentage figure of total live births at 2.4 is below the average yearly figure for the Administrative County during the post-war period.

STILLBIRTHS. The number of registered stillbirths assigned to the Rural District during 1958 was eight (three males, five females) or five less than in the previous year. The resultant rate was 13.5 per 1,000 total births. Expressed per 1,000 of the estimated home population, the Rural District rate was 0.19 compared with a rate for England and Wales of 0.36.

DEATHS. The net deaths actually belonging to the Preston Rural District for the year 1958 numbered 624 (males 322, females 302). This total includes deaths of persons belonging to the Rural District who died outside the District, and of persons who died in the Whittingham Hospital and Ribchester Institution, irrespective of their home address.

The death-rate for the Rural District, calculated on a home population of 40,290, is 15.5 per 1,000. Last year the death-rate was 15.9. The average death-rate for the five years 1953-1957 was 14.9.

Once again the Registrar-General has supplied a comparability factor for adjusting local death-rates. This factor takes into account the varying population constitution, including sex and age distribution, to make every district comparative from the mortality point of view with the crude death-rate of the country as a whole, or with similarly adjusted death-rates for other areas. The adjusted death-rate using the comparability factor is 12.2 per 1,000, as against last year's adjusted rate of 13.2.

The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1958 was 11.7 per 1,000 home population.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH. Reference was made in the 1951 report to the adoption by the World Health Organisation of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists of Diseases and Causes of Death and the 1950 introduction by the Registrar-General of a new Short List of 36 Causes of Death. The absence of any guidance from the Registrar-General as to the effect of the new classification on certain specific causes of death has left in doubt the validity of a comparison between mortality from such causes in the period prior to, and that in the period after, the revision. In certain instances, therefore, no attempt has been made in the following paragraphs to compare the mortality of the year under report with any year prior to 1950.

The relative importance of the principal causes of death is shown in the following table :

Cause of death	No. of deaths	Percentage of total deaths
Heart disease (all forms)	255	40.8
Vascular lesions of nervous system	84	13.4
Cancer (including Hodgkin's disease, leukæmia and aleukæmia)	65	10.4
Pneumonia, Bronchitis and Influenza	55	8.8
Violence (including all Accidents, Suicide and Homicide)	28	4.5
Other circulatory disease	19	3.0
Tuberculosis (all forms)	12	1.9

HEART DISEASES. From 1950 particulars of deaths from the various heart diseases have been sub-divided into three groups—"coronary disease, angina," "hypertension with heart disease," and "other heart disease." The deaths classified to these causes and assigned to the Rural District in 1958 and the preceding year, together with the equivalent mortality rates, are set out below :

Classification	No. of deaths		Death-rate per 1,000 estimated home population	
	1957	1958	1957	1958
Coronary disease, angina	79	89	1.96	2.20
Hypertension, with heart disease	19	34	0.47	0.84
Other heart disease	116	132	2.89	3.27
Heart disease—all forms	214	255	5.33	6.32

The 255 fatalities from heart disease represented an increase of 41 compared with the previous year, the resultant rate of 6.32 being 0.99 per 1,000 of population above that for 1957.

MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, INCLUDING NEOPLASMS OF LYMPHATIC AND HAEMATOPIETIC TISSUES

This title embraces items 10-15 inclusive of the Short List of 36 Causes of Death as set out on Page 19. It is not exactly comparable with the general title of "cancer" used for statistics prior to 1950 by virtue of the inclusion in it of deaths from Hodgkin's disease, leukæmia and aleukæmia, which were excluded from the latter title. The deaths from the constituent causes assigned to the Rural District in 1958 and the previous year are given overleaf by sex :

Classification	1957			1958		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Stomach	7	10	17	2	9	11
Lung, Bronchus	13	2	15	10	3	13
Breast	—	13	13	—	5	5
Uterus	—	3	3	—	6	6
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	30	28	58	17	13	30
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	2	2	—	—	—
Total—all forms	50	58	108	29	36	65

There was, therefore, a decrease in total deaths of 43 compared with 1957. The mortality rate produced by the 65 deaths in 1958 at 1.61 per 1,000 estimated home population represented a decrease of 1.08 per 1,000 over the previous year.

VASCULAR LESIONS OF NERVOUS SYSTEM

This condition, like heart disease and cancer, is one which principally affects older people. The 84 deaths ascribed to this condition in 1958 were 21 fewer than the number for the previous year, and were equivalent to a rate of 2.08 per 1,000 of the estimated home population, compared with that of 2.61 for 1957 and 2.41 for 1956. They amounted to 13.4 per cent. of the total deaths from all causes.

PNEUMONIA, BRONCHITIS AND INFLUENZA

Fifty-five deaths were assigned to this group: Pneumonia 28, Bronchitis 27, Influenza nil. Deaths from Pneumonia and Bronchitis rose by 10 in each case compared with the previous year, during which there occurred nine Influenza deaths. The greater proportion of the deaths were of persons aged 65 years or more.

VIOLENCE

Deaths from violence are divided into four groups in the Registrar-General's Short List of 36 Causes of Deaths—motor vehicle accidents, all other accidents, suicide, and homicide and operations of war. The number of deaths, taking the causes in the same order, were 6, 16, 6 and nil. The deaths attributable to motor vehicle accidents were halved, there was a slight increase in deaths from all other accidents, and suicides rose by one, compared with the previous year. The total 28 deaths represented 4.5% of the total deaths from all causes, as against a figure of 4.7% in 1957.

OTHER CIRCULATORY DISEASE

Deaths in 1958 falling within this classification, which covers all diseases of the circulatory system except the heart diseases mentioned earlier, numbered 19, an increase of one compared with the total for the previous year. The total of 19 amounted to 3.0 per cent. of the deaths from all causes, and was equivalent to a rate of 0.47 per 1,000 of the estimated home population, the same as last year.

TUBERCULOSIS—Respiratory.

The deaths assigned to the Rural District in 1958 as due to tuberculosis of the respiratory system numbered 11, an increase of four over the figure for 1957. The death-rate at 0.27 per 1,000 of the estimated home population exceeded by 0.10 an identical death-rate for the preceding four years. Six of the respiratory deaths were related to inmates of the Whittingham Hospital.

TUBERCULOSIS—Non-respiratory

There was one death during the period under review, equivalent to a mortality rate of 0.02 per 1,000 of the estimated home population. The number of deaths and the death-rate have been identical for the past five years.

The following table shows the net deaths actually belonging to the Rural District for the year 1958, distinguishing males and females, and the causes of death agree with the Short List of Causes of Death based on the Sixth Revision of International Lists (introduced 1950), subject to the amendment that Pneumonia (490-493) now includes also Pneumonia of the newborn (763).

	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	7	4
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	1
3. Syphilitic disease	1	3
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	9
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	6
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	13
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	—
16. Diabetes	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	50	34
18. Coronary disease, angina	49	40
19. Hypertension with heart disease	20	14
20. Other heart disease	52	80
21. Other circulatory disease	12	7
22. Influenza	—	—
23. Pneumonia	13	15
24. Bronchitis	22	5
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	5	5
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	1	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	8	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	27	38
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	2
34. All other accidents	7	9
35. Suicide	6	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—
ALL CAUSES	322	302

INFANT MORTALITY

The death of infants under the age of one year numbered 21, males 13, females 8, almost double the mortality of the previous year.

Sixteen of the infant deaths occurred during the first four weeks after birth.

The mortality rate calculated per 1,000 live births was 36, as compared with a rate of 19 in 1957 and 20 in 1956.

The infant death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1958 was 22.5.

The following table analyses the causes of death in 1958 of infants at stated age periods :

Causes of Death.	DAYS												MONTHS												Total Deaths under one year
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	14	21-28	28-56	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11-12				
Congenital Malformations	...	2	1	...	...	1	.	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8		
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2		
Post-natal asphyxia and atelectasis	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3		
Birth Injuries	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1		
Other Diseases peculiar to early Infancy	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3		
All other causes	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	4		
Totals	...	5	2	1	3	1	1	...	1	1	1	2	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	21		

Of the total deaths at all ages, infant deaths in 1958 formed 3,36 per cent.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY. Once again the Registrar-General has supplied particulars of neo-natal mortality (deaths of infants under four weeks of age) assignable to the rural area. According to the information received, the number of deaths of infants occurring under the age of four weeks and assignable to the Rural District in 1958 was 16, this figure representing 76 per cent. of all infant deaths. The resultant rate was 27 per 1,000 live births. In 1957 this rate was 15.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. There were no maternal deaths during 1958. Only seven deaths have been recorded in the Rural District since the second world war.

Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases

Infectious cases are removed to the Deepdale Isolation Hospital, Preston. Very little trouble was experienced in getting patients into hospital, and transport arrangements were generally good and expeditious. Disinfection of houses, books, clothes, etc., was always carried out in those cases where it was considered essential.

SMALLPOX

No case of smallpox occurred during 1958, the twenty-ninth successive year for which the Rural District has been entirely free from the disease.

SCARLET FEVER

Scarlet Fever was more prevalent during 1958 than in the previous year, the 68 cases representing an increase of 44. Over the past four years incidence has developed a biennial similarity. The figure for 1956 was 70. The general mildness of the disease continued, and with the usual nursing precautions complications were avoided. Two-thirds of the cases occurred in the first half of the year, and distribution principally involved the parishes of Farington, Goosnargh, Penwortham and Whittingham. All the cases with one exception were confined to children, and the attack rate was 1.68 per 1,000 of the estimated population, compared with 0.59 per 1,000 for the previous year, and 1.77 per 1,000 for 1956. Forty cases were treated in hospital. Particulars of deaths registered as due to scarlet fever have not been provided by the Registrar-General since his adoption of the new Short List of Causes of Death in 1950, but an examination of the death returns, including inward transfers received by the department during the year, revealed no such cause of death.

DIPHTHERIA

For the eighth consecutive year this disease has been absent from the rural district, and there is no reason why this should not be a feature of future reports so long as parents see that their children are immunised.

WHOOPING COUGH

With this disease also no case was recorded during 1958, a further testimony to artificial immunisation. The County Council's immunisation scheme was inaugurated on the 1st April, 1955, and the 1957 report of the County Medical Officer of Health recorded that the proportion of pre-school children in the administrative county afforded protection in the first year of life rose from 68 per cent. in 1956 to 75 per cent. in 1957. Ample proof of the increased success of the campaign. It is hoped that continuing immunity will not breed apathy.

MEASLES

The number of notified cases was 48, a low figure compared with 1957, when 630 cases were reported. This is the usual incidence pattern with measles, but it is noted with a little concern the increasing numerical severity of epidemic years. Only seven cases were notified in the first ten months of 1958, with 41 cases occurring in November and December, which suggests that 1959 will be epidemic in character. Case distribution involved most parishes, with Lea principally affected. There was no death from the disease, and no one required hospital treatment.

DYSENTERY

One hundred and ten notifications were received. One hundred and nine of the people affected were inmates of the Whittingham Hospital, and the remaining patient was employed at the hospital but resident in the parish of Broughton. The usual disease type was 'Flexner.'

ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS

(Post infectious)

The only case recorded concerned a boy aged five years, who was taken ill with mumps. Subsequently he developed acute encephalitis, was admitted to the Preston Royal Infirmary, and made a complete recovery.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS

One paralytic case and two non-paralytic were notified. The cases were confined to children, and all were removed to hospital for treatment. Each case was made the subject of a short report upon its history for a subsequent period extending up to six months, with particular reference to the effect functionally of the disease upon the individual. From the particulars obtained it was ascertained that in each case the patient had recovered without functional limitations.

PARATYPHOID FEVER

The only case recorded concerned an infant female. The doctor in attendance had, prior to the notification, sent faeces specimens to the laboratory for examination. The public health inspector took further specimens from the patient and her parents as home contacts. "Salmonella Paratyphi "B" was isolated in all specimens from the patient, but parental specimens were negative. The investigation was completed when three negative specimens were consecutively received from the patient.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Undulant Fever

Two cases were reported during the year, and in each instance the milk consumed by the patient was investigated. The premises of the producers were visited, and bulk samples of milk were taken and submitted to the local public health laboratory. The samples were subsequently reported as negative to the "brucella ring test."

NOTIFICATIONS. The table below shows the number of infectious and other notifiable diseases notified during the year 1958 after corrections subsequently made either by notifying medical practitioners or by the medical superintendent of the local infectious diseases hospital :

**Notification of Infectious and other Notifiable Diseases (after correction)
for the year ended 31st December, 1958, analysed by age**

Notifiable diseases	Total Cases at all ages.	Total Cases Notified.										Total Deaths
		Age Periods—Years.										
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25 & over	Age un-known	
Scarlet Fever	68		1	5	12	7	39	3		1	—	
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis	1						1					
Paralytic	1						1					
Non-paralytic	2				1	.		1				
Measles (excluding rubella)	48	—	4	6	8	6	23	1	—	—	—	
Diphtheria	—											
Dysentery	110		—	—		—	—		4	105	1	
Meningococcal Infection	—											
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—										—	
		0-	5		15		45		65 and over		Age un-known	* 12
Acute Pneumonia (prim & infl'zal)	5	2	—		—		2		1		—	
Smallpox	—											
Acute Encephalitis Infective	—											
Post-infectious	1		1		—							
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—											
Paratyphoid Fevers	1	1										
Erysipelas	—	—	—		—		—		—		—	
Food Poisoning	8	1	1		6		—		—		—	
Tuberculosis												
Respiratory	9	1	—		3		4		1		—	11
Meninges & C.N.S.	1	1	—									
Other	2		2				—		—		—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2				2							

* The death returns disclosed cases of pneumonia of which this Authority had no record before death.

The township distribution of specified notifiable diseases is set out in tabular form for the year 1958, and for comparison the totals for the preceding four years are given :

Townships.	Scarlet Fever		Dysentery		Measles		Whoop'g Cough	
	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed
Barton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Broughton	...	...	I	...	...	..	...	...
Cuerdale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutton ...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Farington	11	2	...	...	2	...	...	...
Goosnargh	7	3	...	...	I	...	...	...
Grimsargh	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Haighton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hothersall	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hutton	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lea ...	I	I	...	...	23	...	...	...
Little Hoole	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Longton	2	I	...	...	4	...	...	...
Much Hoole	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Penwortham	30	19	...	...	11	...	...	...
Ribchester	I	I	...	...	...	...	...	...
Samlesbury	2	2	...	...	I	...	...	...
Whittingham	10	8	109	109	...	...	...	...
Woodplumpton	I	I	...	...	4	...	...	...
1958 TOTAL ...	68	40	110	109	48	...	..	...
1957 TOTAL ...	24	11	36	27	630	...	45	...
1956 TOTAL ...	70	36	111	27	368	...	79	I
1955 TOTAL ...	37	22	32	20	315	4	10	...
1954 TOTAL ...	44	30	60	42	123	I	61	...

TUBERCULOSIS

The scheme for the prevention and treatment of Tuberculosis in the administrative County is administered by the Lancashire County Council and the Manchester Regional Hospitals Board respectively.

A number of dispensaries are provided for the diagnosis of the disease, staffed by Chest Physicians and Tuberculosis Health Visitors. These dispensaries work in close association with the Sanatoria, and serve a valuable purpose in the main essence of supervision of patients after their discharge therefrom.

The dispensary for patients residing in the Rural District is situated at 12, Walton's Parade, Preston.

The first table below gives in certain specified age groups the male and female notified cases of respiratory and non-respiratory tuberculosis in the year 1958, together with deaths therefrom.

The second table gives a comparison with the previous five years, but excludes age distribution.

Age Periods. Years	NEW Cases.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	.
5 ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
10 ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 .	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
25 ...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
35 ..	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 ...	3	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
55 ...	2	2	...	...	4	...	...	...
65 ...	2	1	...	...	1	2	...	1
75 and upwards	...	..	..	...	...	..	...	...
Totals ...	14	5	1	3	7	4	...	1
	19		4		11		1	

YEAR	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1958	14	5	1	3	7	4	—	1
1957	20	15	1	5	7	—	1	—
1956	17	12	2	1	6	1	1	—
1955	20	16	4	5	6	1	1	—
1954	16	11	2	2	5	2	—	1
1953	31	15	3	2	5	8	—	—

The 23 new cases which were notified to the Department during the year could be classified as occurring amongst (1) permanent residents 8, (2) residents of Whittingham Hospital 9, (3) people transferred into the area 6.

Removals from the register numbered 28 ; 14 patients were transferred to other administrative areas, 8 patients died, 5 recovered, and in one case the diagnosis was not confirmed.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

(Section 47)

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (Amendment) ACT, 1951.

Number of applications made during the year	1
Number of Orders made	1

SCHOOLS

The total number of schools in the Rural Area is 35.

Periodical inspections were made during the year for sanitary defects.

A number of defects were found to exist, and these were brought to the notice of the Divisional Education Authority.

NEW LEGISLATION

The following legislation, inter alia, came into force during 1958, except where otherwise stated :

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

Landlord and Tenant (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1958.

Litter Act, 1958.

Local Government Act, 1958.

New Towns Act, 1958.

Physical Training and Recreation Act, 1958.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958 (18/1/59).

Slaughterhouses Act, 1958.

Water Act, 1958.

Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1958.

Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1958.

Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) (Amendment) Regulations, 1958.

Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958 (1/1/59).

Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958 (1/1/59).

Slaughterhouses (Meat Inspection Grant) Regulations, 1958.

Clean Air Act (Appointed Day) Order, 1958.

Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, 1958.

Petroleum Spirit (Conveyance by Road) Regulations, 1958.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Since the Food Hygiene Regulations came into force, 127 informal notices have been served to carry out works of improvement, etc., at food premises, and in the majority of cases the occupiers have complied. It would appear, however, that in a number of cases statutory action may become necessary. It has always been the policy to educate rather than to coerce, and if formal action is unavoidable, your officials will regard it with a sense of personal failure. Co-operation of the food trader and consumer is a pre-requisite to clean food on the table.

The following summary gives a general indication of the type of work required by the informal notices and the number of premises involved :

Nature of work	No. of premises
(1) Installation of wash basin with hot and cold water supplies and toilet requisites	86
(2) Installation of sink with hot and cold water supplies and washing utensil requisites	26
(3) Provision of hot water supply to sink or wash basin	9
(4) Repairs and improvements to premises and fixtures	59
(5) Cleansing of premises	33
(6) Provision of adequate ventilation	22
(7) Provision of first-aid equipment	14
(8) Provision of suitable food store	7
(9) Provision of storage accommodation for utensils	3

In addition, 46 visits were made to slaughterhouses for the purpose of meat inspection, and other functions during the year included the sampling of milk and the inspection of dairies.

The following list gives the number of food premises, by type of business, in the district at the end of the year under review :

Type of Business	No.
General grocers and provision dealers	91
Greengrocers and fruiterers (incl. those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	23
Fishmongers (incl. those selling poultry, game, etc.)	1
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	18
Bakers and/or confectioners	27
Fried fish shops	15
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice cream, etc.	36
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering refreshments	74
Others	33
Total	318

The number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and Section 14 of the Lancashire County Council's (General Powers) Act, 1951, are as follows :

Type of business	Act	No.
Ice cream	Section 16, F. and D., 1955	117
Preserved food, etc.	ditto.	11
Hawkers' premises	Section 14, L.C.C. Act, 1951	16

One hundred and fifteen of the ice cream premises are used for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice cream manufactured outside the district.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, seven dairies are on the Council's register.

CASES OF FOOD POISONING. The notified incidence of food poisoning was greater than in the previous year, with eight single cases recorded as against five. Symptoms were generally mild, and the patients soon recovered. The usual enquiries were made and faeces specimens taken, but in only one case was the causative agent identified, "Salmonella Typhi Murium." The time lag between onset and notification in most cases made it difficult to trace the source of infection.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The following table shows the numbers of certain classes of animals killed in the Rural Area during 1958, together with the number and result of the inspections carried out :

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ...	23	33	5	125	47	...
Number inspected	23	33	5	125	47	...
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	...	1	..	...	...	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	2	30	...	18	2	...
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	9	94	...	14	4	...
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	...	..	..	...	...	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	...	...	...	...	2	...
Cysticercosis						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	...	.	...	...	...	.
Generalised and totally con- demned	...	...	...	...	...	...

The unsound carcase meat, approximately $14\frac{3}{4}$ cwts. in weight, was burnt at the slaughterhouses.

The amount of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption at shops, etc., was 26lbs. Wherever possible the food was diverted for animal feeding. The protection of the public in regard to the food which they consume is an important duty of the District Public Health Inspector. Powers exist for food which is not in a sound and wholesome condition to be seized and taken before a magistrate for condemnation. It was not necessary to take such action during 1958 because the purveyors concerned voluntarily surrendered the food which was unfit for human consumption for a certificate issued by the District Public Health Inspector, which enables them to obtain credit from the firm who supplied the food.

SAMPLING—FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Samples were taken by the Sampling Officers of the County Public Health Department, which is the authority responsible for the administration of the Act in this respect. Given below are the particulars of the sampling and the results.

A total of 212 samples was obtained, consisting of 147 samples of milk (13 of which were of Channel Islands milk) and 65 others, comprising :

2 Cream of tartar	2 Seidlitz powders
7 Tea	1 Sweets
2 Table jelly	1 Curry powder
2 Fresh fruit	2 Glycerin B.P.
2 Butter	1 Cheese
2 Bacon	1 Epsom salts
7 Flour confectionery	3 Pepper, white
1 Fish cakes	3 Condensed milk
1 Drinking chocolate	2 Ice cream
1 Fish paste	1 Flavour straws
2 Camphorated oil	3 Sauce
2 Cocoa	1 Custard powder
1 Desiccated coconut	1 Tincture of iodine
2 Castor oil	4 Vegetables—dried
1 Bottled boneless turkey	2 Vinegar
2 Meat paste	

The samples were submitted for analysis and were reported to be genuine with the exception of those listed below :

<i>Type</i>	<i>Analysis</i>	<i>Action</i>
Milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 0.3% of extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.
Milk	Fat 2.9%. Deficient 3.3% fat. Slightly low in solids-not-fat.	Vendor notified.
Flavour straws	Contents of straws included synthetic colours. Should be added to list of ingredients as “colourings.”	Importers communicated with.
Milk	Fat 2.95%. Deficient 1.6% fat.	Vendor notified.
Milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 2.1% of extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.
Milk	Deficient 35% fat and 23.6% solids-not-fat, and contained 25.7% of extraneous water.	Legal proceedings instituted. Farmer fined £5 on each sample and ordered to pay £8 15s. 0d. costs.
Milk	Deficient 24.1% solids-not-fat and contained 25.8% of extraneous water.	

PERCENTAGE OF ADULTERATION OF SAMPLES OF FOOD & DRUGS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total No. of samples</i>	<i>No. of adulterated samples</i>	<i>Percentage of adulteration</i>
1954	231	14	6.0
1955	210	12	5.7
1956	204	6	2.9
1957	227	7	3.0
1958	212	7	3.3

Water Supplies

The four major sources of water distribution in this rural area are :

- a. The Preston Corporation.
- b. The Fulwood Urban District Council.
- c. The Fylde Water Board.
- d. The Manchester Corporation (Thirlmere).

These supplies are controlled by both chemical and bacteriological tests, and analyses are periodically made.

The townships south of the Ribble are supplied by the Preston Corporation and Manchester Corporation. North Ribble townships receive Fylde, Fulwood and Preston water.

The here inserted table gives a series of figures indicating the water situation in the several townships. Where houses are not receiving a laid-on supply, the explanation is, the non-supplied premises are situated a very long way from the mains :

Parish	No. of houses newly connected to public mains supply during 1958		From Public Mains				From Private Supplies, <i>e.g.</i> wells, springs, etc.	
			Direct to houses		By means of standpipe			
	Existing houses	New houses	No. of dwelling houses	Estimtd. No. of population	No. of dwelling houses	Estimated No. of population	No. of dwelling houses	Estimated No. of population
Barton ...	...	6	372	1139	...	...	8	25
Broughton ...	...	2	176	560	...	...	...	...
Cuerdale ...	...	..	10	38	...	...	...	...
Dutton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62	198
Farington ...	...	15	1416	4280	...	...	...	...
Goosnargh ...	6	1	265	837	...	...	42	130
Grimsargh ...	...	3	249	805	...	...	...	...
Haighton ...	...	...	64	203	...	...	4	14
Hothersall ...	...	...	40	124	...	...	4	14
Hutton ...	...	5	453	1387	...	...	...	...
Lea ...	...	2	1004	3065	...	...	4	14
Little Hoole ...	...	..	222	689	...	...	...	...
Longton ...	...	15	1220	3706	...	...	...	...
Much Hoole ...	...	1	230	694	...	...	2	6
Penwortham ...	...	234	4583	13670	...	...	...	...
Ribchester ...	...	...	434	1367	...	...	20	64
Samlesbury ...	...	3	347	1094	...	...	17	60
Whittingham...	...	6	440	4379	...	...	44	132
Woodplumpton	...	2	466	1449	...	...	46	147
TOTAL Whole District	6	296	11991	39486	...	...	253	804

Submitted below is a table showing water consumption per head of population per days over the past two years in the different supply areas.

Area of Supply				Sept. 1956	March 1957	Sept. 1957	March 1958	Sept. 1958
				<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>
Longton & Penwortham	...			43.44	43.09	45.08	43.79	42.74
Farington	...	...	...	43.54	45.19	44.80	43.46	46.15
Lea	...	...	...	37.45	38.02	31.61	36.28	33.97
Samlesbury	...	...	...	69.27	51.95	56.68	53.00	55.80
Ribchester & Hothersall	...			32.37	35.56	32.19	37.52	35.76

The number of dwelling houses with piped supplies direct from mains is now 11,991.

The approximate number of dwelling houses without a piped supply direct from mains is 253.

Parts of the townships of Goosnargh and Dutton are without a piped supply, but steps are being taken to remedy this, and 70 houses in Goosnargh have been connected to the public water main during the past three years.

Population supplied from public water main direct to houses is approximately 39,486 of a population of 40,290.

ANALYSES OF WATER SUPPLIES

Water is purchased in bulk from the Preston and Manchester Corporations, and supplied direct by the Fylde Water Board and Fulwood Urban District Council. Results of examinations of water supplies are received each year from these Undertakings, and they are consistently satisfactory. However, it was reported last year that, following periods of heavy rain, samples of water taken in the area of supply fed from the Thirlmere Aqueduct proved to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory. The matter was brought to the Council's attention, and it was eventually decided to install chlorination plant. Tenders have been invited, and the plant should be installed during the forthcoming year.

Housing

The first annual review of housing applications was carried out in 1952, when there were 1,392 applicants on the Council's list. The most recent review carried out towards the end of 1958 revealed that, out of 201 applicants circulated, only 131 wished to remain on the list, categorised as follows :

Parish	Houses	Flats	Total
Barton	3	—	3
Farington	6	6	12
Goosnargh	6	—	6
Grimsargh	6	2	8
Lea	9	2	11
Hoole	1	—	1
Longton	3	—	3
Penwortham	33	36	69
Ribchester	4	2	6
Samlesbury	1	—	1
Woodplumpton	—	—	—
Total of General List	72	48	120
Total of agricultural applicants	11	—	11
Grand Total	83	48	131

It was reported last year that annual voids were at a sufficient rate to deal with general needs, and during 1958 40 families were re-housed in existing houses. This figure represents 3.5% of occupied houses, compared with a rate of 6% for the previous year, but the decrease is offset by a comparable reduction in the general needs demand. It must also be pointed out that the figure of 131 applicants is very little above the workable minimum necessary to ensure that houses which become vacant are immediately relet, so that there is no loss of rent income.

In addition to 40 families rehoused in existing houses, 46 families of displaced persons were rehoused, and 22 overspill houses were occupied. Furthermore, a start was made on the building of 28 aged persons' bungalows, with certain communal facilities and warden's accommodation. The completion of these bungalows will meet a specialised need which has been urgent for some time.

Again there was considerable progress in private housing development, principally in the parish of Penwortham. Altogether 217 houses were completed and occupied, and from information obtained as to the number of families coming from outside the district, there was a considerable influx of population. One hundred and nineteen houses were under construction at the year end, and on estates under development work on a further 81 houses had still to commence.

The Lancashire County Council erected five houses, and a further 28 houses were under construction at the end of the year.

HOUSING PROGRESS 1945 to 1958

The following Tables show (1) schemes completed, (2) schemes in progress, and (3) schemes contemplated :

(1)

Scheme	No. of houses
Penwortham and Farington	22
Woodplumpton	16
Lea	40
Woodville Street, Farington	12
School Street, Farington	10
Penwortham	52
Barton	40
Samlesbury	16
Grimsargh	22
Woodplumpton	8
Little Hoole	24
Much Hoole	24
Goosnargh	28
Longton	29
Ribchester	22
Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—1st Contract	80
New Longton	36
Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—2nd Contract	38
Coote Lane, Farington—1st Contract	18
Airey Rural Houses	84
Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—3rd Contract	36
Nabs Head Lane, Samlesbury	30
Stanifield Lane, Farington	28
Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—1st Contract	50
Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—2nd Contract	50
Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—4th Contract	80
Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—3rd Contract	54
Coote Lane, Farington—2nd Contract	106
Studholme Estate, Penwortham—1st Contract	76
Studholme Estate, Penwortham—2nd Contract	58
Shops and Flats, Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham	6
Total	1,195

(2)

	Completed	Houses Under Construction	Not yet Started
Studholme Estate, Penwortham—3rd Contract	—	19	10
Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—4th Contract	22	32	—

(3)

	No. of houses
Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—5th Contract	50
Sites in the Parishes of Longton and Woodplumpton	24

OVERSPILL

As part of the general Development Area for Penwortham, some 258 houses will be built in the initial phase. These houses will accommodate overspill population from the Preston C.B. 176 houses have already been completed, 32 houses are under construction, and 50 houses are contemplated for 1959. Long-term overspill commitments amount to a further 427 houses.

OTHER HOUSING

In addition to Council houses, houses have been constructed by the Lancashire, County Council, Ministry of Works, Kingsway Housing Association (formed by The English Electric Co.), Manchester Regional Hospitals Board, and Private Builders.

As far as other housing is concerned, the position at the 31st December, 1958, was as follows :

Constructed by	Completed	Houses	
		Under Construction	Not yet Started
Lancashire County Council	96	28	—
Ministry of Works	208	—	—
Kingsway Housing Association	250	—	—
Blackburn C.B.	2	—	—
Preston C.B.	1	—	—
Manchester Regional Hospitals Board	15	—	—
Private Builders	1230	119	81
	1802	147	81

SLUM CLEARANCE

One hundred and thirty-six houses have been demolished or closed since 1945 ; 113 formally and 23 informally. Undertakings have been accepted in the case of 32 houses ; in 15 instances, that the premises would not again be used for human habitation ; and in 17 instances, the premises to be reconstructed. Five houses are officially scheduled for demolition, but action is deferred until the time is opportune to re-house the tenants. One hundred and forty-eight houses remain to be dealt with on the Council's provisional slum clearance programme. Twenty-four demolition orders and three closing orders were made, and 115 displaced persons were re-housed during 1958. All the 58 houses built by the Council for re-housing purposes covering the first phase of the Council's provisional slum clearance programme are occupied. A further 24 houses are to be built on sites in the parishes of Longton and Woodplumpton.

Sixty-five houses were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation and action was as follows :

Repairs during the year

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action under the Housing and Public Health Acts | 25 |
| (b) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit following formal action under the Public Health Acts : | |
| (i) By owners | Nil |
| (ii) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |

(c) Housing Acts—action after service of formal notice. Houses made fit :	
(i) By owners	2
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(d) Housing Act, 1957—Section 24. Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and demolition orders revoked	Nil

Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Act, 1957)

(1) Number of houses at the end of the year retained for temporary accommodation under Section 48, Section 17 (2) and Section 46	Nil
(2) Number of houses licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53	Nil

Purchase of houses by agreement

Number of houses in clearance areas other than those included in confirmed clearance orders or compulsory purchase orders, purchased during the year	Nil
--	-----

Housing Act, 1949—Improvement grants

Number of schemes submitted :

(a) By Local Authority to Ministry	Nil
(b) By private individuals to Local Authority	7
Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected	7
Number of schemes completed during the year	14
Additional separate dwellings included in the completed schemes	Nil

Sewage Disposal

There are outfall works in six townships, viz : Broughton, Farington, Grimsargh Lea, Penwortham and Ribchester, In other parishes a septic tank is provided for each house, or alternatively a small sewage purification plant is installed for a group of houses.

Schemes have been prepared for several unsewered areas, and the present position with regard to them is outlined in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report.

The here inserted table gives a series of figures indicating the sewage situation in the several parishes.

Parish	Connected to Public Sewer		Septic Tank, etc.	
	No. of Dwelling houses	No. of Population	No. of Dwelling houses	No. of Population
Barton ...	70	231	310	933
Broughton ...	51	170	125	390
Cuerdale ...	...	...	10	38
Dutton ...	...	...	62	198
Farington ...	1185	3475	231	805
Goosnargh ...	...	...	307	967
Grimsargh ...	206	665	43	140
Haighton ...	...	...	68	217
Hothersall ...	...	...	44	138
Hutton ...	...	...	453	1387
Lea ...	395	1206	613	1873
Little Hoole ...	...	...	222	689
Longton ...	...	...	1220	3706
Much Hoole ...	...	...	232	700
Penwortham ...	4568	13623	15	47
Ribchester ...	307	990	147	441
Samlesbury ...	51	160	313	994
Whittingham ...	...	..	484	4511
Woodplumpton	...	..	512	1596
TOTAL Whole District	6833	20520	5411	19770

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1958, for the Rural District of Preston in the County of Lancaster

Most of the factories in the Rural Area are of a small character, and chiefly consist of those relating to Motor Car Repairs and Confectionery. There are, however, four Cotton Mills, two Paper Mills, two Iron Foundries, a large Engineering Works, and a Rubber Factory.

Defects found to exist related to Sanitary Conveniences. Working conditions generally were good.

As regards the remedying of defects, seven written notices were served on the occupiers of the factories concerned, which resulted in the necessary work being carried out.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937 Part 1 of the Act

1—INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	2	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	109	62	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	18	12	2	—
TOTAL ...	129	74	7	—

2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	—	3	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	7	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	11	11	—	5	—

Part VIII—Sections 110 and 111

Number of Outworkers in August List required by Section 110 (1) (c), 3 Wearing Apparel (making, etc.)

J. WALKER,

August, 1959

Medical Officer of Health.

Chief Public Health Inspector's Report

To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Guyer and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I submit to you the following report on departmental functions during the year 1958.

It conforms to recognised presentation by being purely statistical in character, and therefore it does not convey a complete picture of the wide variety of work with which the District Public Health Inspectors are associated in dealing with problems related to the environmental conditions of the district. Nevertheless, it reveals a year of considerable progress in many spheres.

Altogether, 2,444 visits were made, and if the categorised visits included in the report are examined, it will be seen that a great deal of work was associated with improving the housing conditions of the population. Food hygiene was again a principal function, and the protection of food in shops has improved. Many alterations have been made to existing premises, and this work will continue unabated. Problems concerned with "Clean Air" demanded increased attention, and the volume of work in this field will rapidly expand in the next few years. A detailed survey of all premises licensed to store petroleum spirit was carried out, and in some cases it was necessary to call the attention of the licensees to fire risks which existed, and advice was given on the steps to be taken to eliminate them. Most of them were associated with heating equipment, and recommendations included the installation of other types of heating equipment at reasonable cost which would eliminate fire risk.

Progress with regard to unsewered areas included the completion of the Grimsargh scheme, and a continuance of work on phase 1 of the Longton and district scheme. The joint valley sewer was in operation at the end of 1958, and steps were being taken to dismantle existing sewage plants in the Blackpool Road area of the parish of Lea and connect the outfalls. The Barton, Broughton and Goosnargh scheme was redesigned to include parts of the parishes of Bilsborrow and Myerscough in the Garstang R.D., and the proposal was before the Minister at the year end. Finally, the Council were contemplating proceeding with the remainder of the Longton and district scheme with certain minor omissions.

Improvements in water supply were mainly concerned with the completion of the Whitechapel section of the Goosnargh scheme by the Fylde Water Board, but considerable work was performed by the direct labour force of the water department to improve supplies chiefly at the extremities of the distribution system. Though it was hoped to commence work on the main extension to the Littleton area of Ribchester in the latter half of 1958, various difficulties arose which prevented a start being made. However, this work will proceed to completion in the forthcoming year.

Rodent control, chiefly on agricultural land, remains a principal function of the department, and altogether 5,142 visits were made by the rodent operatives covering survey and treatment. Occupiers were most helpful, and there now appears to be an acute awareness amongst farmers that rats are not only destructive, but are closely connected with the spread of fowl pest. A discontinuance of the contract service operated by the Lancashire Agricultural Executive Committee to take effect during the financial year 1958/59 caused the Council to consider the establishment of a similar service. Enquiries revealed a sufficient demand, and it was finally decided to bring a Council-operated scheme into existence from 1st January, 1959. An occupier of a large agricultural unit requires constant survey and treatment, and only a contract service meets this demand.

In conclusion, I wish to express my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued confidence, and the staff of the Department for their willing co-operation at all times.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Department during the year :

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S VISITS

Inspection of dwelling houses	295
Insanitary drainage	121
Fouled watercourses	78
Middens	18
Dirty condition of premises	29
Other visits relating to nuisances	13
Infectious disease	190
Verminous premises and persons	—
National Assistance Act	4
Milk and Dairies	85
Food premises	363
Shops	77
Factories	74
Caravans	42
Schools	12
Hotels, Inns, etc.	41
Ice-cream premises	74
Hawkers	8
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	9
Drain testing	46
Smoke observations	17
Closet conversions	36
Pet Animals Act	1
Petroleum Act	121
Water supply	54
Slaughterhouses and Knacker's Yard	46
Anthrax	2
Swine Fever	3
Housing applications	41
Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants	239
Rent Act, 1957	148
Other visits	157
	2,444

NOTICES

Informal	106
Formal	50

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disinfection was carried out in the following cases of infectious disease :

Scarlet Fever	1
Tuberculosis Removal	1

To conclude, 190 visits were made relating to Infectious Disease, including visits in connection with cases of food poisoning and enteric fever.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

At the end of 1958 the following position existed in the Rural District as regards sanitary conveniences belonging to inhabited houses :

No. of Fresh Water Closets	10,772
No. of Waste Water Closets	178
No. of Pail Closets	1,145
No. of Privy Middens	149
No. of Movable Ashbins	11,351

The old bog closets and pail closets exist mainly in the outlying parishes and in the small scattered areas.

The following conversions took place, and new sanitary accommodation was provided during 1958 :

No. of Pail Closets to Fresh W.C.s	10
No. of Waste Water Closets to Fresh W.C.s	18

OTHER SANITARY DEFECTS DEALT WITH

Dampness	21
Defective Ceilings	7
Defective Closet Pails	2
Defective Closet Structures	2
Defective Doors	6
Defective Floors	6
Defective Gutters	16
Defective Paving	2
Defective Downspouts	5
Defective Roofs	19
Defective Chimneys	2
Defective Pointing	2
Defective Walls	11
Defective Brickwork	7
Defective W.C.s	4
Defective Windows	5
Defective Woodwork	4
Defective Fire Ranges	5
Absence of Washing Facilities	2
Insanitary Drainage	121
Fouled Watercourses	78
Dirty Condition of Premises	29
Middens	18
Defective Sink Waste Pipes	4
Defective Sinks	3

CLEANSING.

The gradual conversion of the fleet from petrol-driven vehicles to diesel was continued, and two new diesel refuse collectors were brought into service at the year end. The ten-day interval of collection was more satisfactorily maintained, because our labour difficulties were not as great as those in previous years. The change over of staff continued undiminished, but it was not so difficult to get replacements as in the time past. The most disorganising factor, however, was the sickness rate, with an average of 13 days lost per man-year, particularly when the men concerned were drivers.

Altogether, 11,351 houses were cleared, 242 more than in the previous year, and ten waggons were employed for the purpose. Disposal was by means of partial controlled tipping with full-time tipmen employed, and four tips were in operation for varying periods of the year.

The work is carried out by direct labour, and the following table shows the amount of work done by the motor refuse vehicles from January 1st to December 31st, 1958 :

Vehicle	Type	Mileage	Petrol or Diesel (galls.)	Oil (quarts)	Loads (number)	Estimated weight of refuse in tons	Miles per gallon
G.C.K.226	Ferdson	... 7102	... 891	... 49	... 511	... 1069	... 7.97
C.C.K.178	Ford	... 10303	... 1428	... 52	... 483	... 603	... 7.21
C.R.N.663	Fordson	... 3409	... 521	... 55	... 224	... 445	... 6.54
D.C.K.893	Ferdson	... 7233	... 1175	... 165	... 550	... 1157	... 6.15
E.R.N.987	Fordson	... 6790	... 1037	... 23	... 738	... 1531	... 6.54
G.R.N.212 (diesel)	Fordson	... 9723	... 633	... 74	... 701	... 1460	... 15.36
J.C.K.73 (diesel)	Fordson	... 9707	... 555	... 25	... 640	... 1328	... 17.49
J.R.N.713 (diesel)	Fordson	... 9182	.. 635	... 42	... 661	... 1368	... 14.46
J.R.N.816 (diesel)	Fordson	... 9387	... 600	... 25	. 982	... 2043	... 15.64
K.R.N.758 (diesel)	Fordson	.. 7836	... 501	. 12	.. 695	... 1439	... 15.64
TOTALS		... 80672	... 7976	... 522	... 6185	... 12443	... 10.12

SALVAGE

The following table analyses the weight and cash value of materials salvaged during the year 1958 :

Materials	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Mixed Paper	362	13	3	—	2720	2	1
Newspapers	3	7	1	—	24	7	1
Rags	6	2	—	2	106	0	3
Carpets	3	12	—	—	15	8	3
String	—	5	3	14	1	4	5
Aluminium	—	8	2	17	46	19	4
Lead	—	3	—	27	9	3	2
Braziery, Copper	—	2	—	18	12	4	3
Mixed Brass	—	1	3	13	6	19	11
Mixed Metals	—	4	1	3	17	13	9
Light Scrap	2	6	—	—	6	18	0
Scrap Batteries	—	—	2	27	0	14	1
Tins	4	8	3	—	23	6	0
Tins—financial assistance	—	—	—	—	4	8	9
Totals	383	16	2	9	£2,995	9	4

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

There are 129 factories on the register, and their condition is satisfactory. Seventy-four inspections were made, and seven notices served. Forty-four certificates of adequate means of escape in case of fire have already been issued, and eight factories still require certificates.

There are 12 bakehouses on the register. Frequent visits are made to these places, and they are on the whole kept clean.

CANAL BOATS

There have been no inspections carried out during the year.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND INSPECTIONS

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954.

Thirty-six licences for Slaughtermen were issued.

There is one licensed Slaughterhouse and one licensed Knacker's Yard in the district. The premises are frequently visited, and where advice has been tendered the response has been immediate.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The Lancashire River Board has jurisdiction in regard to river and stream pollution over the whole of the rural area.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There are outfall works in six townships, viz : Broughton, Farington, Grimsargh Lea, Penwortham, and Ribchester. Two hundred and seventeen new houses and six existing houses were connected to the sewerage system during the year.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936 to 1957

The under-mentioned properties have been dealt with during the year :

Houses on which demolition orders were made :

Boyse's Cottage, Durton Lane, Broughton.
Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, Alston Row, Lower Bartle.
Wide Range, Nr. Patrick House Farm, Goosnargh.
Bunker's Hill Cottage, Catforth, Woodplumpton.
Nos. 1 and 2, Lydiate Lane, Farington.
Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, Albert Place, Farington.
Holm Farm Cottage, Liverpool Road, Longton.
Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Saddle Cottages, Lea.

Houses included in Clearance Orders :

Nil.

Houses demolished informally :

Nil.

Undertakings accepted :

(i) Reconstruction

Page House, White Carr Lane, Ribchester.

(ii) Not to be used for human habitation

Higher Trotter Hill, Whitechapel, Goosnargh.
Rose Cottage, Lower Bartle, Woodplumpton.

Houses on which closing orders were made :

The School House, Liverpool Old Road, Much Hoole.
7, Walmer Cottage, Gill Lane, Longton.
3, Greenside, Ribchester.

Houses in respect of which improvement grants were made :

The Lodge, Hill Road, Penwortham.
Red House, Chapel Lane, Longton.
187, Croston Road, Farington.
Hillside House, Samlesbury Bottoms.
50, Rawstorne Road, Penwortham.
Howick Cross Cottage, Liverpool Road, Penwortham.
Horn's Lane Cottages, Goosnargh.

SLUM CLEARANCE

Action taken with regard to the administration of the Housing Act, 1936.

The following table shows action taken in the various Parishes in the Rural District with regard to slum clearance from 1945 to 1958 inclusive :

PARISH.			HOUSES.						
			Demolished. or closed		Undertakings accepted following formal action.		Voluntary action by owners.		Scheduled for demolition
			<i>Form- ally.</i>	<i>Inform- ally.</i>	<i>Not to be used for human habitation.</i>	<i>Re-construction</i>	<i>Re-construction or conversion to other use</i>	<i>Not to be used for human habitation.</i>	
Barton	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...
Broughton	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cuerdale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Farington	...	...	25	3	...	I	...	...	...
Goosnargh	...	...	I	...	I	...	...	...	...
Grimsargh	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...
Haighton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hothersall	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Hutton	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	I
Lea	...	...	9	2	I	I	...	...	...
Little Hoole	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...
Longton	...	...	7	3	3	4	...	...	2
Much Hoole	...	...	4	...	...	2	...	I	2
Penwortham	...	...	40	7	3	2	2	...	...
Ribchester	...	...	5	...	...	I	...	...	...
Samlesbury	...	...	3	3	...	I	...	...	...
Whittingham...	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...
Woodplumpton	...	...	14	4	5	2	...	...	...
TOTALS	...	...	113	23	15	17	2	I	5

RENT ACT, 1957

Part II of the First Schedule :

No. of applications for certificates of disrepair	=	33
No. of certificates issued	=	19
No. of Undertakings given by Landlords to remedy defects	=	11
No. of applications in which the defects were remedied immediately after local authority notice	=	2
No. of decisions not to issue certificates	=	1
No. of certificates of disrepair cancelled	=	3

PETROLEUM ACTS

No. of new licences granted for storing petrol during the year—2.
No. of renewal licences granted during the year—103.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES, ETC.

There are no common lodging houses or houses let in lodgings on the Register.

CARAVANS

The number of cases of illicit parking of caravans was not as great as for previous years, and with the completion of the Longton and Preston by-pass roads, the trouble which was experienced through the scattered parking of caravans on local farms by workmen employed on the construction of these two roads ceased. Altogether 42 visits were made to caravans during the year.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

During the period under review, the District Council continued to carry out, on behalf of the Lancashire County Council, all the inspectorial duties required under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950, including those duties under Section 38.

Three hundred and seven shops were on the register at the end of the year, and 77 visits were made during 1958 under the delegated scheme. In one or two instances it was found that necessary records relating to young persons employed were not being kept, but informal notice resulted in the necessary records being provided. Reports of all inspections were forwarded to the Lancashire County Council.

RAG FLOCK ACTS

There are no premises in the district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

No consent has been given by the Local Authority for the establishment of any offensive trade in the Rural Area.

CLEAN AIR

During the period under review, the District Public Health Inspectors were able to devote more of their time to this problem than in recent years, and discussions held with managements of certain industrial concerns resulted in a reduced volume of smoke being emitted from associated chimneys, and one firm was contemplating a change from hand firing to the installation of a travelling grate stoker. A temporary certificate of exemption under the provisions of Section 2 of the Clean Air Act was issued in one case.

When planning applications concerned with the installation of new furnaces were received, and found to be appropriate to the provisions of Section 3 of the Act, communication was made with the Architects concerned for information as to the types and maximum heating capacities of the new furnaces and the maximum heating loads to which they would be subjected. Advice was also tendered as to heights of associated chimneys, and in all cases the Architects fully complied with our recommendations.

Towards the end of the year, nuisance caused by the emission of grit from the chimneys of the Penwortham Electricity Generating Station was brought to the notice of the Alkali Inspectorate.

ANTHRAX

One case occurred at Penwortham and one at Woodplumpton. The premises were visited and the burning of the carcasses and disinfection under police supervision were found to have been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

SWINE FEVER

Three cases were notified during the year :

Barton	1
Goosnargh	1
Woodplumpton	1

The premises were visited and the burning of the carcasses and disinfection under police supervision were found to have been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

In addition, notices were received placing the following premises under movement restrictions :

Dixon's Farm, Grimsargh.
Daisy Bank Farm, Hoyles Lane, Lea.
Houghton House Farm, Higher Bartle, Woodplumpton

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

No cases were notified.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk supply—action taken with regard to :

The administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations, and the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

At the 31st December, 1958, there were 66 registered milk distributors in the area, operating from :

(a) dairies in the district	18
(b) premises outside the district	16
(c) shops in the district other than dairies	32

The number of dairies on the register was seven. Nineteen visits were made to dairies, and generally the standard was found to be satisfactory.

In addition, and as far as unofficial records show, there were 98 producer-retailers operating in the Rural Area.

The following dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) have been issued during the period under review :

(i) The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

Tuberculin Tested Milk 48

(ii) The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949

Pasteurised Milk 51

Sterilised Milk 40

There was no refusal or revocation of a licence for graded milk during the year.

MILK SAMPLING

Thirty-seven samples were taken for the Bacterial and Methylene Blue Reductase tests with the following results :

Satisfactory 35

Unsatisfactory 2

Forty-two samples were taken in the district for the presence of tubercle bacilli with the following results :

Negative 42

Nine samples of pasteurised milk were taken and subjected to the Phosphatase test with the following results :

Sufficiently heat treated 9

Three samples of sterilised milk were taken and subjected to the Turbidity test with the following result :

Satisfactory 3

Twenty-six samples of raw milk were taken and subjected to the Brucella ring test with the following result :

Negative 21

Positive 5

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1938

Given below are the results of investigations carried out by the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food within the Rural District during the year arising from notifications of tuberculosis milk made by two other local authorities :

No. of herds examined by veterinary inspectors 2

No. of cases where animals were seized under the Order 1

No. of animals seized 1

No. of cases reported negative where animals had been sold prior to the investigation Nil

No. of cases reported negative, no animals seized 1

FOOD PREMISES

363 visits were made to food premises during the year, and 14 informal notices were served on occupiers concerned to carry out necessary alterations, etc., under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

The total number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is 128. One hundred and seventeen of these premises are registered for the manufacture and sale or storage and sale of ice cream. This figure includes ten new registrations during the year. One hundred and fifteen retailers sell loose or pre-packed ice cream manufactured outside the district.

SAMPLING OF ICE CREAM

One sample of ice cream was taken and submitted to bacteriological tests. As a result of the tests, the sample was placed in the following grade :

Grade I satisfactory

Every endeavour was made by visits, advice and admonition to encourage the production of a clean and satisfactory product.

HAWKERS

Hawkers of Meat, or Meat Food Products. Fish, Fruit and Vegetables, and their premises situate in the Rural Area, are registered under Section 14 of the Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951.

No. of registered hawkers 29
 No. of registered premises 16

The following is a summary of the Foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year :

Description	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Apricots	—	—	—	14	—
Corned Beef	—	—	—	6	—
Ox Tongue	—	—	—	6	—
Total	—	—	—	26	—

Wherever possible, the condemned foodstuff contained in the above schedule was diverted to animal feeding.

In addition, the following carcases of animals were inspected :

Cattle (excluding cows) 18
 Cows 38
 Calves 5
 Pigs 47
 Sheep and Lambs 125

and the following was condemned as unfit for human consumption :

28 cows' livers for distomatosis ;
 15 sheep livers for distomatosis ;
 3 sheep livers for parasites ;
 1 heifer's liver for distomatosis ;
 2 bullocks' lungs for pleurisy ;
 1 pig's head and shoulders for injury ;
 1 cow's lungs for abscesses ;
 2 pigs' kidneys for nephritis ;
 1 cow's carcase and organs for septic metritis and acute fever ;
 1 pig's head for tuberculosis ;
 15 beasts' kidneys
 12 beasts' livers
 trimmings of lamb breasts
 trimmings of English beef

} for decomposition.

The decomposition was the result of a breakdown of the refrigerator at the Whittingham Hospital.

Approximate total weight of meat condemned : 14³/₄ cwts.

PARKS AND PLAYING FIELDS

The following schedule gives the Playing Fields provided in the Rural District and an indication of the area in each field available for games :

Situation	Whole area	Area for games	Area let off for Grazing	Ploughing
Barton	5	5	—	—
Broughton	5	5	—	—
Church Wood, Penwortham	4 ¹ / ₂	4 ¹ / ₂	—	—
Farington	10 ¹ / ₂	5 ¹ / ₂	5	—
Goosnargh	4 ¹ / ₂	4 ¹ / ₂	—	—
Grimsargh	12	12	—	—
Hurst Grange, Penwortham	16 ¹ / ₂	12	4 ¹ / ₂	—
Hutton	7	7	—	—
Lea	16 ¹ / ₂	4	12 ¹ / ₂	—
Little Hoole	4	4	—	—
Longton	6	6	—	—
Much Hoole	5	5	—	—
New Longton	9	9	—	—
Queensway, Penwortham	5	5	—	—
Penwortham Hall	18 ¹ / ₂	12 ¹ / ₂	6	—
Tardy Gate	5 ¹ / ₂	5 ¹ / ₂	—	—
Woodplumpton	6 ¹ / ₂	2 ¹ / ₂	4	—
Total	141	109	32	—

The work of the Department during the period under review included, in addition to a great deal of maintenance work, the mowing of grass verges on the Council's Housing Estates.

RODENT REPORT

STAFF

During the year three rodent operatives were employed.

SEWERS

The whole of the sewerage system of the district was test baited in May, when 10 per cent. of the manholes on the main sewerage system were baited with sausage rusk. There was evidence of infestation in the parish of Penwortham, and pre-baiting and poison baiting was carried out, followed, after an interval of six months, by maintenance treatment.

SEWAGE WORKS

The Council's Sewage Works at Farington, Grimsargh Lea, Penwortham and Ribchester, were treated periodically, and infestation kept down to a minor level.

TIPS

The Council's refuse tips at Barton, Longton, Ribchester and Penwortham were also treated periodically with excellent results, but though minor infestation only now exists, regular visits will be made to these tips in the coming year, and any signs of infestation dealt with accordingly.

BAIT

The bait used was sausage rusk and stale bread mash.

POISONS

The poisons used were Zinc Phosphide, Arsenic, and Warfarin.

In addition to sewerage and tip control, the survey of agricultural land was continued throughout the year, and, as reported previously, the tendency is for occupiers to stock warfarin and carry out their own control.

Early in the financial year, the Lancashire Agricultural Executive Committee notified the Council that their contract service was to be discontinued by gradually running it down throughout 1958/59. Consequent upon this information, consideration was given to the establishment of a similar service by the Council, and it was eventually decided to operate such a scheme from January 1st, 1959. All the occupiers of large agricultural land units were circularised, including those formerly under contract with the Lancashire Agricultural Executive Committee, and 81 indicated their willingness to participate and agreements were being drawn up at the end of the year. Even though private operators are offering a similar service in the rural district, there is every confidence that the Council's service will expand.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. COLLIER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

PREMISES AND INFESTATION.

Type of Property	(I) Total No. of Properties	(II) No. of Properties inspected during 1958 as a result of :			(III) No. of Properties found to be infested with rats (under (II))		(IV) No. of Prop- erties under (II) found to be seriously infested by mice.	(V) No. of infes- ted Properties under (III) & (IV) treated by L.A.	(VI) No. of notices served under Section 4 for :	
		NOTIFI- CATION	SURVEY	OTHER- WISE	MAJOR	MINOR			TREATMENT	STRUCTURAL WORKS, ie. PROOFING
Local Authority	7	...	7	...	3	4	...	7	...	...
Dwelling Houses	11191	15	1380	...	...	8	8	16	...	...
Agricultural	1050	...	1050	...	1	78	13	70	4	..
All other (including Business & Industrial.	450	6	183	...	...	14	2	16	...	...
Totals	12698	21	2520	...	4	104	23	109	4	...

No. of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following
issue of notice under Section 4 None
Legal Proceedings None
No. of “block ” control schemes carried out None

Four of the major type were reduced to minor and re-treatment is to be made.
One hundred and four of the minor type were cleared, and no post baits were taken.
(See Table—Column III.)

The house-to-house search instituted in accordance with instructions received
from the Divisional Rodent Officer was continued throughout the year in all
Parishes.

Altogether, 5,142 inspections, including re-inspections, were made of the various
types of property during 1958.

Report of Building Surveyor

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Guyer and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting a Report on the buildings dealt with during the year 1958.

The table shows the number and situation of new houses which were erected :

Parish					Dwelling houses erected
Barton ...	...	...	...	...	6
Broughton ..	..	..	...	...	2
Farington ...	...	...	...	...	15
Goosnaigh ...	...	...	...	..	1
Grimsargh ...	...	...	...	...	3
Hutton...	...	..	...	...	5
Lea ...	...	...	...	...	2
Little Hoole ...	..	...	...	...	1
Longton ...	...	...	...	...	15
Much Hoole ...	...	...	...	...	1
Penwortham ...	...	...	...	...	234
Samlesbury ...	...	...	...	...	3
Whittingham ...	...	...	...	...	6
Woodplumpton ...	...	...	...	...	2
TOTAL...					296

The following visits have been made in connection with the erection of houses by private enterprise :

Inspection of Site	280
Inspection of Foundations	374
Inspection of Drainage	436
Inspection on Completion	386

In addition, 1,727 visits were made to the Council's Housing Estates, and there were 509 miscellaneous visits.

TOWN PLANNING

The Lancashire County Council is the Local Planning Authority for the Rural District, and under delegated powers 757 applications to develop were received. Of these, 314 applications were classified as permitted development under Town Planning.

The Council considered these applications with the following results :

Permissions granted	652
Refused	94
Deferred	3
Withdrawn	8

H. COLLIER,

Building Surveyor.

Report on Water Supply

To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Guyer and Gentlemen,

This report is a continuation of the report submitted by the Medical Officer of Health, and deals solely with the work of the Department during the year 1958.

The number of connections shows an increase, and the number of extensions a decrease, compared with the preceding year—this you will notice by the following figures :

Connections	1957	266
Connections	1958	310
Extensions of mains	1957	3216 yds.
Extensions of mains	1958	2649 yds.

The following table shows the connections made in the various Parishes during the year :

Parish	Houses	Business		
		Premises	Trough	Standpipes
Farington	29	1	—	—
Hutton	8	—	1	—
Lea	3	—	2	1
Little Hoole	2	—	—	—
Longton	20	—	—	—
Much Hoole	1	—	—	—
Penwortham	234	—	2	—
Ribchester	3	1	—	—
Samlesbury	2	—	—	—
Total	302	2	5	1

Extensions to Water Mains for the year are as follows :

Parish	2"	3"	4"	6"
		Yds.		
Farington	—	136	42	—
Hutton	—	42	—	—
Longton	185	198	—	—
Penwortham	291	1593	162	—
Totals	476	1969	204	—

In addition, routine maintenance of the Undertaking was carried out, and the following general summary gives a brief idea of the work entailed :

No. of taps re-washed	250
No. of Service Pipes repaired	43
No. of Mains repaired	20
No. of Ball Hydrants repaired	4
No. of Ball Hydrants converted to Valve Hydrants	17
No. of new Hydrants installed	14
No. of Meters changed	71
No. of Ferrules cleaned	37
No. of Visits to Consumers' Premises	86
Length of Mains Scraped	2318yds.

Further, despite labour difficulties, regular flushing was carried out in every Parish served by the undertaking. In addition, test surveys for bursts were carried out in the Parishes of Farington, Lea, Penwortham, Ribchester and Samlesbury.

Numerous incidental jobs were carried out on the Council's Housing Estates.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. COLLIER,

Water Engineer.

